

## Tom Hanks Tops Our List Of The Most Trustworthy Celebrities

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In the movie *Saving Mr. Banks*, a crucial plot point hangs on whether movie mogul Walt Disney will make *Mary Poppins* an animated film. He promises author P.L. Travers (played by Emma Thompson) that he won't. But we all know that parts of the film were animated. So is he lying or just carefully choosing his words?

How you feel about the movie depends a lot on this question. If you see Disney as a manipulative liar trying to trick Travers, the film doesn't really work. But if you trust Disney that the small bits of animation he plans to add to the film won't take away from Travers' vision, the film is a sentimental triumph.

To sell the moment, the filmmakers turned to the most trustworthy of all actors: Tom Hanks. Although he didn't land an Oscar nomination for his role, Hanks won universal praise for his portrayal of the prickly legend, and the \$35 million film earned \$100 million at the box office.



Hanks is the most trustworthy celebrity in Hollywood, according to our most recent Forbes/E-Score list. For its **E-Score Celebrity** service, [E-Poll Market Research](#) ranks more than 8,000 bold-faced names on 46 attributes through public opinion polling. Hanks' trustworthy score is 25 and his appeal is 81, putting him ahead of all other celebrities with a combined score of 106.

"Trustworthy, like influential, can be very subjective descriptors based on the nature of their celebrity. For the most part, it reflects how genuine people perceive that person to be," says **Gerry Philpott**, president of **E-Poll Market Research**, which provides the E-Score data. "It positively impacts a celebrity's 'brand' for getting top roles and endorsements if consumers see them as credible and believable."

Only a few people know how trustworthy Hanks is in real life. What people trust is his image. In film after film Hanks has reinforced his persona of the nice, dependable guy. Although he doesn't do endorsements, marketers would gladly pay Hanks a fortune to speak up for their products.

Morgan Freeman, who in the past has topped the trustworthy list, ranks third this year. Freeman is one of the few trustworthy celebrities who takes advantage of his strong public image to shill products. Anyone watching the Olympics this year regularly hears Freeman's distinct voice in Visa ads. He's also made hay out of goofing on his own image. In the new *Lego Movie*, Freeman voices Vitruvius, a blind Lego guru who has his share of silly lines. Freeman scores a 21 for trustworthiness and an 82 for appeal.

Sandwiched in between Freeman and Hanks is Carol Burnett, with a score of 24 for trustworthiness and an 80 for appeal. Considering those numbers, maybe someone should give the comic legend another show. Though she sometimes pops up in cameos on shows like *Hot in Cleveland* and *Glee*, Burnett mostly stays out of the limelight. She was recently nominated for an Emmy for the audio version of her book *Carrie and Me* about her daughter, who passed away at age 38.

Michael J. Fox ranks fourth with a 26 trustworthy score and a 76 for appeal. NBC was hoping to ride the star's appeal all the way to the bank with *The Michael J. Fox Show*. But the show, loosely based on Fox's struggles with Parkinson's disease, is at serious risk of being canceled. It has been pulled from NBC's lineup for now.

Rounding out the top five is Betty White. Best known for *Golden Girls*, White has staged something of a comeback over the last few years with films like *The Proposal* and TV shows like *Off Their Rockers*, in which older people pull pranks. At the age of 92 she is still beloved and shows no signs of slowing down. White scores a 22 for trustworthiness and a 79 for appeal.

#### **2014 Most Influential Celebrities (Influential %, Appeal %)**

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Tom Hanks (25, 81)      | 6. Bill Cosby (24, 76)        |
| 2. Carol Burnett (24, 80)  | 7. Robin Roberts (30, 70)     |
| 3. Morgan Freeman (21, 82) | 8. Denzel Washington (17, 82) |
| 4. Michael J. Fox (26, 76) | 9. Maggie Smith (20, 79)      |
| 5. Betty White (22, 79)    | 10. Ron Howard (23, 75)       |